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August 22, 2005

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 230-5-13

SUBJECT: EOP - WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

Purpose. To inform NRCS employees about Women's Equality Day – August 26, 2005

Expiration Date. September 30, 2005.

What is Women's Equality Day?

An excerpt from <http://www.nwhp.org/events/equality-day/history-of-equality-day.html>

At the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), in 1971 the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day."

The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention, in Seneca Falls, New York.

National Women's History Museum

On July 29, 2005, the U.S. Senate approved a bill creating the National Women's History Museum in Washington, DC. The following is the press release announcing the passing of the bill and can be found at the following website:

http://www.hsgac.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&Affiliation=C&PressRelease_id=1076&Month=8&Year=2005

SENATE APPROVES SENATOR COLLINS' BILL TO CREATE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Old Post Office Annex to become site of new museum at no cost to taxpayers

Washington, D.C. – The United States Senate on Friday approved by unanimous consent Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Susan Collins' (R-ME) legislation to create a national women's history museum on the site of a vacant building in Washington, D.C. that is owned by the General Services Administration (GSA).

The National Women's History Museum Act of 2005 was introduced with the support of all the women members of the Senate. It directs the GSA to enter into a long-term occupancy agreement with the National Women's History Museum, Inc. (NWHM), a nonprofit organization, to develop the Pavilion Annex adjoined to the Old Post Office Building on Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The site has been vacant for more than 10 years. It is estimated that such a museum would draw more than 1.5 million visitors to the Capitol each year.

“Such a museum would also showcase the many important social, economic, cultural, and political contributions that women have made to our country. And all this could be done at virtually no cost to taxpayers,” said Senator Collins.

Under Senator Collins' bill (S. 501), NWHM would pay fair market value to rent the Annex and would be responsible for completing the building's renovation and modification. The fair market value would be determined through an appraisal process.

“This is a great use for an empty federal building, and it makes good fiscal sense,” said Senator Collins.

Additional information about the National Women's History Museum can be found at <http://www.nmwh.org/home/home.html>.

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State Conservationist

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